

LITERARY NOTES

Mr. Crawford's "Roman Singer" will be rather a long story. It will run through the *Atlantic* for the coming half-year.

Mrs. Oliphant, who has apparently an endless capacity for composition, is now living in Venice. She is about to bring out a work on that city. In addition to her prominent novel of "Hector," it would be interesting to know how well Mrs. Oliphant could write if restricted to one book in two or three years.

The *Illustrated* grows brighter, breezier and more artistic with every number. It is a magazine invaluable to those who love the "merry machine." The illustrations of the December number are admirable, and the reminiscences of bicycling travel and adventure are interesting even to mere laymen. The bound volume of the magazine for the past six months is a mine of pleasant suggestion for the bicyclist.

The British people seem to take a sentimental interest at least in the miseries of their poor. No fewer than twenty thousand copies of Mr. G. R. Sims's book, "How the Poor Live," were ordered by the trade in advance of publication.

Scribner & Welford announce the "first complete and uniform edition of the historical and posthumous Memoirs of Sir Nathaniel William Walford." The work is, it will be remembered, a chronicle of that period in British history especially interesting to Americans—the years between 1772 and 1784.

Mr. Tennyson's new poem on "Early Spring"—published by the *Tenth Muse* at the cost of \$1,000—is a palatial work of production. It hardly requires, indeed, the level of the ordinary newspaper poetry. These verses for example, are not exactly worth \$125 each:

Owens a door in Heaven;
From a star of glass
A Jacob's ladder falls
On growing grass
And over the mountain walls
Young angels pass.

Before them flutters the shower,
And hails the buds,
And under the level lands,
And flash the floods;
The stars are from their hands
Flung thro' the woods;

The words by living airs
How freshly fann'd,
Light airs from where the deep,
All down the sand,
Is breathing in his sleep,
Heard of the land!

The printing of illustrated papers is done so much more cheaply in London than in Paris that the *Figaro* is having its magnificently illustrated Christmas number printed in the former city. The presses on which this has been placed cost \$1,000 each, in Paris they would cost \$3,000 to \$3,500.

There is in *The Antiquary* a curious and entertaining article showing the remarkable slowness of the world in the development of agricultural matters. The evidence derived from the comparison of ancient and comparatively modern implements is that presented by the writer.

Time has not been permitted to change the old Leather Bottle Inn at Cobham, Kent, nor its parlor so minutely described in the "Pickwick Papers," wherein Mr. Tupman on a memorable occasion was discovered. Within and without the quaint inn remains as it was fifty years ago, and is in the hands of a landlord and landlady proud of its associations.

Kate Greenaway's Almanac for 1884 (George Routledge & Sons) is the prettiest and quaintest of trifling gifts. Her little tripping figures of lads and lasses, sedgely drawn and colored, show earnest study and increased power in this conscientious artist.

The *Magazine of American History* for December has some excellent papers on Christmas-time in Colonial America. The best of these is Mr. John Estlin Cooke's graphic description of the holiday in Old Virginia. It is enriched by some very attractive illustrations.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS THE MESSIAH. By Alfred Edersheim, M. A., Oxon. D. D., F. R. S. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 695. \$2. (Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)
HISTORY OF THE CARPENTER FAMILY. By James Upham. 8vo. pp. 70. Paper. (Judson Esch.)
NEW COMMENTARY ON PRACTICAL AND ARTISTIC PERSPECTIVE. By E. T. Ames, A. T. D. (T. Ames.)
THE TINKER BROTHERS' TIME-MILL. By J. T. Towbridge. 16mo. pp. 326. (Boston: Lee & Shepard.)
AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND LETTERS OF CHARLES DEWEY, D. D. 12mo. pp. 365. (Boston: Roberts Bros.)
ST. NICHOLAS. Vol. X. Part 1 and 2.
THE CENTURY. Illustrated Monthly Magazine, May, 1883, to October, 1883.
HEALTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD. OR, HYGIENIC CHEMISTRY. By Thomas Gray. 8vo. pp. 47. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
MARTIN LUTHER. By Julius Kostlin. 16mo. pp. 145. (Cassell & Co.)
THE TEN THOUSAND. By Rev. William M. Baker, D. D. 12mo. pp. 247. (Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)
THE AGONIST POEMS. By Henry Miles Pierce, D. D., LL.D. 16mo. pp. 120. (Boston: Thomas Whitaker.)
HOLLY SPRAYS. By Lucia E. P. Kimball. 16mo. pp. 128. (National Temperance Society and Publishing House.)
THE POETRY OF OTHER LANDS. By N. Clemens Hunt. 12mo. pp. 445. (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.)
THE QUEEN'S. By Margaret Vandegriff. 16mo. (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.)
THE GOLDEN TREASURY OF SONGS AND LYRICS. By Francis T. Palgrave. 8vo. pp. 435. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.)
A HISTORY OF ANCIENT SCULPTURE. By Lucy M. Mitchell. Large 8vo. pp. 706. (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

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- VIII. HER SACRIFICE.
- IX. PUNCH AND JUDY ON BOSTON COMMON—"Playing to a Light Business."
- X. ONE CHRISTMAS.
- XI. THE CHILD'S ADORATION OF THE INFANT SAVIOUR. A picture of Christmas in Italy.

There are also several fine pictures illustrative of Christmas stories and fables.

Among the Poems of the Number are the following:

- "THE COMING OF THE MASTER." By Christina Rossetti.
- "BETHLEHEM." By Miss G. A. Davis.
- "A CHRISTMAS VIGIL."

The Table of Contents includes stories by Anson Towne, Mary E. Brad, Etta W. Pierce, Christina Valancy Crawford, George K. Hays, Whitney Clarke and others, together with papers on "The Middle Ages," "Christmas Bells," "A Christmas Day in Mexico," "How the Christmas Festival is Kept in the Black Mountains," "The General of the Army," "Home-burning in India-China," "Outcast London," "Christmas in Germany," "Proverbs About Home," &c., &c., &c.

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Increasing interest has been developed in the proceedings of the FAMILY FAIR, which has been opened for the discussion of questions of social interest in the present day.

A more recent department, but one which in its way has attracted no little attention, is that of REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN, in which a special correspondent of large practical experience furnishes information and hints to those ladies who, from choice or necessity, are impelled to seek suitable occupation for their spare time.

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